

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of forming a self-aligned contact hole suitable  
2 for a semiconductor substrate having a pair of gate electrodes,  
3 comprising the steps of:

4 forming a nitride etching stop layer over the gate  
5 electrode and the semiconductor substrate;

6 forming an oxide insulating layer on the nitride  
7 etching stop layer; and

8 plasma-etching the oxide insulating layer by an etching  
9 gas containing  $C_5F_8$  and  $CHF_3$  so as to form a self-aligned contact  
10 hole between the pair of gate electrode.

1 2. A method of forming a self-aligned contact hole as  
2 claimed in Claim 1, wherein the oxide insulating layer is BPSG.

1 3. A method of forming a self-aligned contact hole as  
2 claimed in Claim 1, wherein the oxide insulating layer is  
3 silicon oxide formed by a reactive gas containing TEOS.

1 4. A method of forming a self-aligned contact hole as  
2 claimed in Claim 1, wherein the nitride etching stop layer is  
3 silicon nitride.

1 5. A method of forming a self-aligned contact hole as  
2 claimed in Claim 1, wherein the nitride etching stop layer is  
3 silicon oxy-nitride.

1 6. A method of forming a self-aligned contact hole as  
2 claimed in Claim 1, wherein the etching gas further comprises  
3 an inert gas.

1 7. A method of forming a self-aligned contact hole as

2 claimed in Claim 6, wherein the inert gas is argon gas.

1 8. A method of forming a self-aligned contact hole as  
2 claimed in Claim 1, wherein the  $C_5F_8/CHF_3$  mixture ratio of the  
3 etching gas is between 0.4 and 0.75.

1 9. A method of forming a self-aligned contact hole  
2 suitable for a semiconductor substrate having a pair of gate  
3 electrodes, comprising the steps of:

4 forming a nitride etching stop layer over the gate  
5 electrodes and the semiconductor substrate;

6 forming a oxide insulating layer on the nitride etching  
7 stop layer; and

8 plasma-etching the oxide insulating layer by an etching  
9 gas containing  $C_4F_6$  and  $CHF_3$  so as to form a self-aligned contact  
10 hole between the pair of gate electrode..

1 10. A method of forming a self-aligned contact hole as  
2 claimed in Claim 9, wherein the oxide insulating layer is BPSG.

1 11. A method of forming a self-aligned contact hole as  
2 claimed in Claim 9, wherein the oxide insulating layer is  
3 silicon oxide formed by a reactive gas containing TEOS.

1 12. A method of forming a self-aligned contact hole as  
2 claimed in Claim 9, wherein the nitride etching stop layer is  
3 silicon nitride.

1 13. A method of forming a self-aligned contact hole as  
2 claimed in Claim 9, wherein the nitride etching stop layer is  
3 silicon oxy-nitride.

1 14. A method of forming a self-aligned contact hole as

2 claimed in Claim 9, wherein the etching gas further comprises  
3 an inert gas.

1 15. A method of forming a self-aligned contact hole as  
2 claimed in Claim 13, wherein the inert gas is argon gas.

1